To understand the difference between amillennialism and postmillennialism, it's essential to grasp their interpretations of the "millennium" described in the Book of Revelation. Here's a breakdown:

Key Differences:

- **The Nature of the Millennium:**
  - **Amillennialism:**
    - Views the millennium as a symbolic representation of the current church age, the period between Christ's first and second coming.
    - Believes Christ's reign is spiritual, occurring in the hearts of believers and in heaven.
    - Does not anticipate a literal 1,000-year earthly reign of Christ.
  - **Postmillennialism:**
    - Believes the millennium is a long period of earthly peace and prosperity, during which Christianity will increasingly influence the world.
    - Anticipates a "golden age" where the world will largely be Christianized before Christ's second coming.
    - Christ's second coming occurs *after* this millennial period.
- **The Progression of History:**
  - **Amillennialism:**
    - Sees history as a mix of good and evil until Christ's return, with no expectation of a progressively improving world.
  - **Postmillennialism:**
    - Holds an optimistic view of history, believing the gospel will gradually transform society, leading to a more righteous world.
- **Christ's Return:**
  - Both Amillennialism, and Postmillennialism believe that Christ returns after the millenium.
  - The main difference is what they consider the millenium to be.

In essence:

- Amillennialists see the millennium as a present, spiritual reality.
- Postmillennialists see it as a future, earthly reality.

It's important to note that these are broad generalizations, and there are variations within each viewpoint.